

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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FOLLOWING REPEAT 77 STATE 305869 ACTION ADDISABABA INFO ABIDJAN
ACCRA DAKAR LAGOS DARESSALAAM KINSHASA LIBREVILLE LUSAKA NAIROBI
YAOUNDE MOGADISCIO KHARTOUM DEC 23

QUOTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 305869

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM SECSTATE WASHDC DATED DECEMBER 23,
1977 SENT ADDIS ABABA IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ET, US, PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE - DECEMBER 22

1. FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED DECEMBER 22. COPY
WAS GIVEN TO ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR DECEMBER 22 PM.

2. QUOTE WE ARE NOT TAKING SIDES IN THE DISPUTE BETWEEN
ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA. AS HAS BEEN REPEATEDLY ANNOUNCED
PUBLICLY, THE US IS NOT SUPPLYING ARMS TO EITHER SIDE
OF THIS CONFLICT. THAT SELF-IMPOSED PROHIBITION SPECI-
FICALLY EXTENDS TO THE TRANSFER OF US-ORIGIN MILITARY
ITEMS TO EITHER OF THE COMBATANTS BY ANY THIRD PARTY. THE
CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH TRANSFERS WE HAVE FORCEFULLY BROUGHT
TO THE ATTENTION OF POTENTIAL THIRD-PARTY SUPPLIERS TO
EITHER ETHIOPIA OR SOMALIA.

3. WHILE WE ARE NOT CHALLENGING THE RIGHT OF ETHIOPIA
TO DEFEND ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, WE ARE CONVINCED
THAT THE ONLY WAY FOR THE DISPUTE BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND
SOMALIA TO BE RESOLVED IS THROUGH NEGOTIATION. NO MILITARY
SOLUTION WILL ENDURE SINCE MILITARY SUCCESS BY ONE SIDE
WILL MERELY INCITE THE OTHER TO SEEK A MILITARY SOLUTION IN
THE FUTURE. WE FEEL THAT THE MOST APPROPRIATE MECHANISM

FOR ACHIEVING A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION FOR THIS AFRICAN
PROBLEM IS THROUGH THE MECHANISM DEvised BY THE AFRICANS
THEMSELVES, THE ORGAIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY'S ETHIOPIA-
SOMALIA MEDIATION COMMISSION, CHAIRED BY NIGERIA.
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4. OUR OBJECTION TO THE ESCALATION OF THE SOVIET UNION'S
MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN ETHIOPIA IS THAT THIS ACTION CANNOT
HELP BUT STIMULATE AN EFFORT TO SEEK A MILITARY RATHER THAN
A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM.

5. WE CALL UPON THE SOVIET UNION TO CEASE ALL ACTIVITIES
WHICH ENCOURAGE THE RESORT TO ARMS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA
AND TO EMBARK INSTEAD ON A COURSE OF ACTION DESIGNED TO
BRING BOTH SIDES OF THE CONFLICT TO NEGOTIATE THEIR
DIFFERENCES WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE
OAU. VANCE UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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